

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Brown County



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LAND CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Norb Dantinne, Chair

Dave Kaster, Vice Chair

Bernie Erickson, Mike Fleck, Dan Haefs, Norbert Vande Hei

LAND CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Monday, June 28, 2010

6:30 p.m. (PD&T to Follow)

Room 161,

1150 Bellevue Street

- I. Call Meeting to Order.
- II. Approve/Modify Agenda.
- III. Approve/Modify Minutes of Land Conservation Subcommittee of June 1, 2010.
 1. Review Working Lands Initiative requirements for Land and Water Conservation Department, budgetary impacts and recommendations.
 2. Land and Water Conservation Department Monthly Budget Update (copy will be provided at meeting).
 3. Director's report.
 4. Such other matters as authorized by law.

Norb Dantinne, Chair

Notice is hereby given that action by the Committee may be taken on any of the items which are described or listed in this agenda.

Please take notice that it is possible additional members of the Board of Supervisors may attend this meeting, resulting in a majority or quorum of the Board of Supervisors. This may constitute a meeting of the Board of Supervisors for purposes of discussion and information gathering relative to this agenda.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 18.94 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Land Conservation Subcommittee** was held on Monday, June 1, 2010 in Room 161, UW-Extension -1150 Bellevue Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin

Present: Norb Dantinne, Bernie Erickson, Mike Fleck, Dan Haefs, Dave Kaster
Excused: Norb VandeHei
Also Present: Tom Hinz, Jayme Sellen, Bill Hafs, John Bechle, Brad Holtz
Other Interested Parties, Media

I. Call Meeting to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Norb Dantinne at 5:00 p.m.

II. Approve/Modify Agenda:

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson and seconded by Supervisor Kaster to approve the agenda. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

III. Approve/Modify Minutes of Land Conservation Subcommittee of April 26, 2009:

Motion made by Supervisor Kaster and seconded by Supervisor Erickson to approve the minutes. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

1. Land and Water Conservation Department Monthly Budget Update (copy will be provided at meeting):

Bill Hafs distributed a budget report though April 2010, stating that all items are on track (attached).

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson and seconded by Supervisor Haefs to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Budget Adjustment Request (#10-51): Federal Stimulus Grant for Total Maximum Daily Load Project:

Bill Hafs explained that in 2009 the Land & Water Conservation Department received a \$40,000 grant through the WIS DNR for work to be done by County staff on the State's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) project in Brown County through September 2010. To accomplish this work, the LWCD needs to replace the obsolete scanner with a new multi-function device as well as some additional equipment. The remaining funds will be used to offset staff time for this project.

Motion made by Supervisor Haefs and seconded by Supervisor Kaster to approve. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **Update on Waste Transformation Project – Brad Holtz (see attachment: Greening Brown County):**

Brad Holtz explained that a public-private partnership is working on aggregating and processing organic wastes into saleable, nutrient-rich fertilizer products. The Brown County Waste Transformation Initiative (BCWTI) is a stakeholder group comprised of industrial, agricultural, and municipal entities to determine if a regional facility could be developed to manage the County's various streams of organics. He indicated that biosolids produced at the Green Bay Metropolitan Sewage District are incinerated and the residual ash is land-filled. Wastes are generated by meat packers, dairy farms, and related industries. In the last 15 years Holtz stated Brown County has experienced significant urbanization and with that came a loss of rural space which was used to land spread these materials.

The first step in the project was to characterize the various waste streams. Samples were analyzed and tested by FEECO International to determine the best way to make fertilizer pellets. FEECO manufactures processing equipment for converting raw materials into palletized fertilizers. At this time, Holtz stated, FEECO is designing a plant which would produce 17,500 tons of dry fertilizer pellets per year.

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson and seconded by Supervisor Fleck to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

4. **Wildlife Damage Plan of Administration Approval – Jon Bechle (see attachment Wildlife Damage Plan of Administration):**

Jon Bechle explained that by resolution, Brown County has agreed to participate in the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program. Responsibilities of that participation were included in packet material for review. Supervisor Haefs opined it is a lot of work for the County to take care of including administration, budgeting, recordkeeping, etc, and stated he would not support the County's involvement.

Motion made by Supervisor Kaster and seconded by Supervisor Fleck to approve.

Ayes: Dantine, Erickson, Fleck, Kaster

Nays: Haefs

MOTION APPROVED 4-1

5. **Director's Report:**

Director Hafs highlighted the following items:

- A meeting was held on May 19, 2010 to discuss the Installation of Wind System Infrastructure in Brown County. Hafs stated that discussion at the meeting included groundwater contamination problems that have occurred in the Town of Morrison since 2005. The LCC has requested that they be informed of all geological information compiled by Invenergy during the engineering and pre-testing of the project. (See attached for details)

- The Land & Water Conservation Department received two grants from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Baird Creek Buffer Project and West Shore Pike Habitat Project. One grant is for \$377,354 and the other for \$395,815.
- A Wisconsin State Journal editorial dated 5/24/2010 regarding wind turbines was distributed and is attached. The Columbia County Board has determined that wind turbines complement farmland preservation. Farmers in the towns of Randolph and Scott have been given approval to lease small amounts of land to We Energies for wind turbines without violating their state agreements to keep their land in agricultural production.

Motion made by Supervisor Fleck and seconded by Supervisor Erickson to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law:

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson and seconded by Supervisor Fleck to adjourn at 5:30 p.m. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Rae G. Knippel
Recording Secretary

Working Lands Initiative (New County and Landowner Responsibilities)

DATCP will now help County monitor program participants:

- DATCP will receive FPP claimant list from the Dept. of Revenue
- County sends it's most updated list to DATCP for comparison with a request that DATCP contact persons not on the County's list (Brown County will do this in May 2010)
- DATCP will inform the County as to how many landowners they have contacted
- If these landowners do not contact the County, DATCP may compare DOR list from successive tax years and notify farmers that they must now get a certificate of compliance from the County

Responsibilities of All Landowners applying to receive tax credits from the program:

- Starting in 2011 (2010 tax year) Certify on their WI Income tax claim form that they are in compliance with State Conservation standards NR 151

In determining their conservation compliance status, landowners must:

- Answer questions about their compliance status for all structures and practices on all owned/operated property
- Have documentation proving compliance such as a Nutrient Management plan checklist, cost share agreement, official determination of compliance, permits
- Take action to establish a schedule of compliance if not in compliance
- Use approved methods of determination such as: RUSLE 2, SNAP Plus, a 590 plan with current soil tests by a DATCP certified lab.
- Ensure that all manure storages, feedlots and barnyards operated are in compliance with current standards
- Come into compliance regardless of cost sharing availability

County responsibility for doing reviews and monitoring:

- Must identify all FPP participants in the County by Sept. 30, 2010
- Must establish the compliance status on all participating landowners by Dec. 31, 2010
- If participants are not in compliance with NR 151 standards, ensure that participants are making reasonable progress toward compliance by June 30, 2011
- Must establish a compliance deadline no later than Dec. 31, 2015
- Must inspect farm of each person collecting tax credits once every 4 years
- Issue certificates of compliance to all new participants in the program after Jan. 1, 2010
- Continue the annual self certification process for continuing participants utilizing DATCP model form
- Issue notices of non-compliance when landowners fail to comply with State standards
- Develop a compliance checklist "certificate of compliance" for new participants to the program or for those landowners who skip a year in claiming the credit and want to resume claiming credits in successive years
- Set a deadline for accepting requests for certificates of compliance (Nov. 30 of the current tax year)
- Document reasons for support or denial of a certificate of compliance

Responsibilities for landowners in an Ag Zoned district who have previously participated in FPP and want to continue in the new program.

- Must comply with NR 151 standards on entire farm, not just the acres they are claiming credit on
- Certify with the County that they are either complying with the standards or will develop a schedule of compliance to meet the standards by 12/31/15
- Certify to the Department of Revenue on their tax claim form that they are in compliance with the standards
- Obtain a certificate of compliance from the County if they skip a year in filing for the credit and decide to resume claiming the credit



State of Wisconsin
Jim Doyle, Governor

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary

June 2, 2010

Dear Farmland Preservation Program Participant:

Changes to the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP), signed into law by Governor Doyle in July 2009, will likely increase your tax benefits for 2010 and following years. In order to receive these benefits, you have new responsibilities involving compliance with conservation standards (described on the back of this letter). You should work with your county conservation department (contact information is also provided on the back of this letter) to identify your compliance status so you can continue to claim a tax credit.

Benefit from Enhanced Credits

The Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative increased the FPP tax credits up to \$7.50 per acre beginning in tax year 2010 for eligible landowners in areas zoned for farmland preservation. Many farmers can expect to receive higher credits because FPP payments are no longer capped based on income or property taxes.

Meeting New Responsibilities

FPP has an increased conservation focus that is reflected in a new Department of Revenue requirement for claiming the tax credit; namely, you must certify on your tax claim form, beginning in 2011 (tax year 2010), that you are in compliance with state conservation standards. It is now more important than ever that you have accurate information about your compliance status to avoid providing false information on your tax return. You need to know the conservation standards that apply to your farm and how your farm measures up to these standards. Also you need to understand how you can continue to claim a tax credit while you work toward meeting standards under a compliance schedule.

Cooperate with your County

Your county land conservation department (LCD) can help you stay on course to continue collecting your tax credit. In addition to using your LCD as a resource, you will need to cooperate when your county asks you to identify your status in complying with FPP conservation requirements. If you have doubts about your compliance, work with your county Land Conservation Department to pursue a compliance plan. If you do nothing, you may be suspended from the program and lose the opportunity to collect your credit while you are working toward compliance. Don't wait to seek help from your county or others because their time and resources are limited.

The improved FPP program offers substantial rewards for those who commit to conservation, and I look forward to working with you to make FPP a success.

Sincerely,


Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary

Agriculture generates \$59 billion for Wisconsin

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Farmland Preservation Program

Conservation Compliance Requirements 2010 and Beyond

You must meet applicable state conservation requirements for your entire farm, not just the acres for which you claim a tax credit. These requirements are based on the state agricultural performance standards adopted by the Department of Natural Resources in NR 151 to control farm runoff and incorporated by the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection into ATCP 50.

The standards that apply to your farm depend on the farming activities conducted on the land

| <i>Farming activity on qualifying acres</i> | <i>Required Standards</i> |
|--|---|
| <i>1. Grow agricultural crops</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet tolerable soil loss ("T") on cropped fields.• Follow a nutrient management plan designed to limit entry of nutrients into groundwater and surface water. |
| <i>2. Raise, feed, or house livestock</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevent direct runoff from feedlots or stored manure into state waters.• Limit livestock access to maintain adequate sod cover along surface water. |
| <i>a. Have or planning manure storage facilities</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain structures to prevent overflow.• Repair or upgrade any failing or leaking structures that pose an imminent health threat or that violate groundwater standards.• Close abandoned structures according to accepted standards.• Meet technical standards for newly constructed or substantially altered structures. |
| <i>b. Within a Water Quality Management Area</i> (300 feet from a stream, 1,000 feet from a lake, or in areas susceptible to groundwater contamination) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not stack manure in unconfined piles.• Divert clean water away from feedlots, manure storage areas, and barnyards located within this area. |

Compliance Assistance Contact Information

| | |
|--|--|
| Name: Brown County Land and Water Conservation Department | Address: Ag & Extension Center, 1150 Bellevue St., Green Bay, WI 54302-2259 |
| Phone Number: 920-391-4620 | Other information: jolly_jr@co.brown.wi.us |

Top 10 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant finalists account for 37 percent of funds

Jun 15 2010 [Jeff Gillies](#) 3 Comments

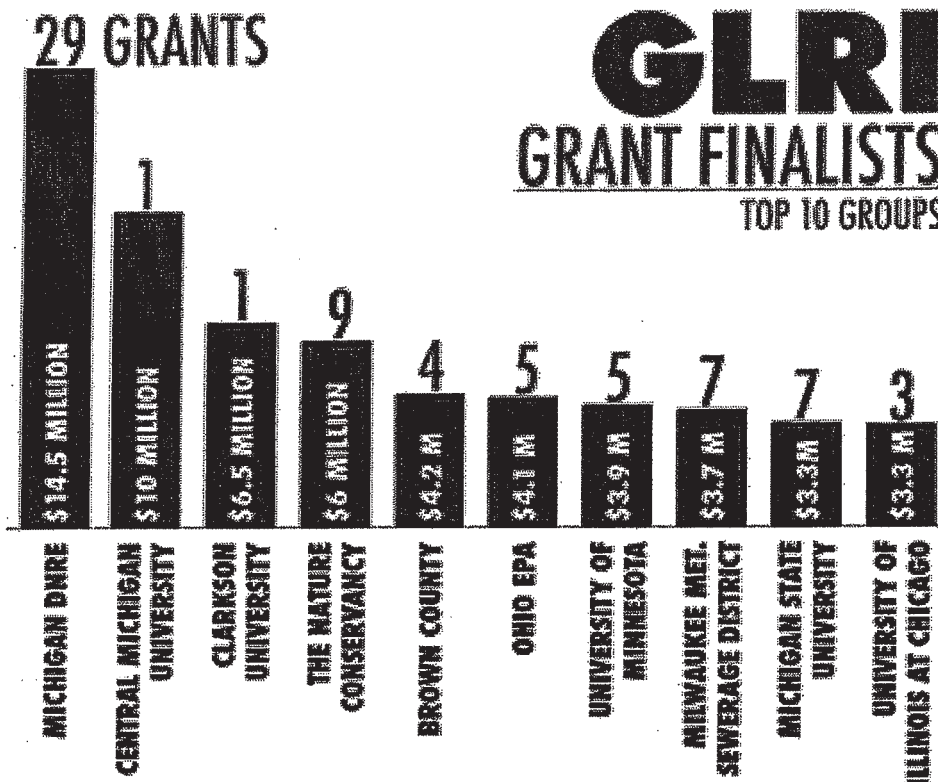
Echo recently took a look at the finalists for \$161 million worth of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants, breaking them down by state and group type. Here we'll check out two more metrics: Biggest winners and GLRI focus areas.

But first, remember that these numbers are still preliminary. Finalists have until the end of June to submit the last paperwork before they're eligible for the awards.

Also, the totals don't account for subcontracts within grants. For example, Michigan State University is in line for \$3.3 million in grants that it won outright, but it could see more initiative funds from other grant winners who have partnered with the school.

[Check out the complete list of finalists for yourself here.](#)

Top 10 groups, total dollars



Out of 136 finalists, these 10 groups stand to pull in nearly \$60 million, which is 37 percent of the total \$161 million.

1. Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment: \$14.5 million for 29 projects, including two grants totaling \$3.3 million for restoration work on Portage Creek, which is part of a Superfund site in southwest Michigan.

2. Central Michigan University: \$10 million for one project, a broad coastal wetlands monitoring program put together by the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Consortium. The plan is detailed in more than 200 pages on the Great Lakes Commission's website.

3. Clarkson University (Potsdam, N.Y.): \$6.5 million for one project, a Great Lakes fish monitoring program titled "Pushing the Science."

4. The Nature Conservancy: \$6 million for 9 projects, including two grants around \$1.4 million each for work the the Maumee River and Green Bay/Fox River Areas of Concern.

5. Brown County (Green Bay): \$4.2 million for four projects, including \$1.5 million for habitat restoration in the Cat Island chain in lower Green Bay.

6. Ohio Environmental Protection Agency: \$4.1 million for five projects, including \$1.5 million for habitat restoration in the Ashtabula River Area of Concern.

7. University of Minnesota: \$3.9 million for five projects, including \$1.5 million for public outreach on invasive species.

8. Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District: \$3.7 million for seven projects, including \$1.1 million for a fish passage project in the Menominee River Area of concern and \$878,000 thousand for projects to develop total maximum daily loads for four water bodies.

9. Michigan State University: \$3.3 million for seven projects, including \$1.5 million to educate health care providers about Great Lakes fish.

10. University of Illinois at Chicago: \$3.3 million for three projects, including \$239,000 for work on a reactive stormwater filter to prevent beach water pollution.

The top ten list treats the branches of the University of Wisconsin System (UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee, etc.) as separate entities. Otherwise, the system would be fifth on the list with \$4.9 million for 10 projects.